AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method to detect tampering with registry settings in a computer, comprising:

generating by an application program running in the computer a user identity value associated with a user identity that is authorized to change a system registry of the computer, the user identity value is generated by a one-way function;

storing the user identity value;

generating by the application program a registry security value associated with said system registry each time a system registry setting is changed within the application by an authorized user, the registry security value is generated by a one-way function;

storing the registry security value; ~~and~~

when reading from the system registry, generating a new registry security value, comparing the new registry security value with the stored registry security value and allowing processing to continue if the new registry security value is equal to the stored registry security value; and

when monitoring the system registry for attempts to change the system registry, (1) prompting for user identity information and generating a new user identity value and comparing it with the stored user identity value, and (2) generating a new registry security value and comparing it with the stored registry security value, and if both of the new values match the stored values then allowing the user to make changes to

~~authenticating by the application program the system registry after reading~~ the system registry.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein generating a user identity value associated with a user identity comprises inserting at least one of ~~the~~ a username and password in the one-way function to obtain the user identity value associated with the user identity.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein generating a registry security value associated with a system registry comprises:

concatenating system registry information; and

inserting the concatenated system registry information in ~~a~~ the one-way function to obtain the registry security value.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 3, wherein concatenating system registry information comprises concatenating at least one of system registry files and system registry handle keys.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1 further comprising modifying the system registry in response to ~~being provided the user identity value and the registry security value~~the new user identify and registry security values matching the stored values.

Claims 7-9 (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine-accessible medium including instructions that, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform operations comprising

generating a user identity value associated with a user identity that is authorized to access a system registry of said machine, the user identity value is generated by a one-way function;

storing the user identity value;

generating a registry security value associated with the system registry each time a system registry setting is changed by an authorized user;

storing the registry security value;

when reading from the system registry, generating a new registry security value, comparing the new registry security value with the stored registry security value and allowing processing to continue if the new registry security value is equal to the stored registry security value;

when monitoring the system registry for attempts to change the system registry, prompting for user identity information and generating a new user identity value associated with a new user identity seeking access to the system registry and comparing the new user identity value to the stored user identity value;

authenticating the system registry after reading the system registry; and

applying a one-way function to the system registry settings as changed by the new user identity to obtain a new registry security value and storing the new registry security value for a subsequent authentication of the system registry.

11. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 wherein instructions for generating the user identity value associated with ~~a~~ the user identity comprises further instructions for inserting at least one of the user's username and password in a one-way function to obtain the user identity value associated with the user identity.

12. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 wherein instructions for generating ~~a~~ the registry security value associated with ~~a~~ the system registry comprises further instructions for

concatenating system registry information; and

inserting the concatenated system registry information in a one-way function to obtain the registry security value.

13. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture as in claim 12, wherein instructions for concatenating system registry information comprises further instructions for concatenating at least one of system registry files and system registry handle keys.

14. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 wherein instructions for authenticating the system registry after reading the system registry comprises further instructions for

generating a new registry security value;

comparing the new registry security value with the stored registry security value; and

allowing processing to continue if the new registry security value is equal to the stored registry security value.

15. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 further comprising instructions for modifying the system registry in response to ~~being provided the user identity value and the registry security value~~the new user identity and registry security values matching the stored values.

Claims 16-18 (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a bus;

a data storage device coupled to said bus and that stores a plurality of instructions which implement an application program; and

a processor coupled to said data storage device, said processor operable to receive said instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to

generate a user identity value associated with a user identity that is authorized to change a system registry of said apparatus, the user identity value is generated by a one-way function;

store the user identity value;

~~obtain a new user identity value;~~

~~compare the new user identify value with the stored user identity value;~~

generate a registry security value associated with said system registry each time a system registry setting is changed within the application by an authorized user;

store the registry security value; ~~and~~

when reading from the system registry, generate a new registry security value, compare the new registry security value with the stored registry security value and allow processing to continue if the new registry security value is equal to the stored registry security value; and

when monitoring the system registry for attempts to change the system registry, (1) generate a new user identity value and compare it with the stored user identity value, and (2) generate a new registry security value and compare it with the stored registry security value, and if both of the new values match the stored values then allow the user to make changes to the system registry

~~authenticate the system registry after reading the system registry based on the stored registry security value~~.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as in claim 19, wherein the processor is operable to receive instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to ~~generate~~, when generating a user identity value associated with a user identity ~~comprises the processor to~~ insert at least one of the username and password in the one way function to obtain the user identity value.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as in claim 19, wherein the processor is operable to receive instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to,

~~generate~~ when generating a registry security value associated with a system registry ~~comprises the processor to~~, concatenate system registry information; and

insert the concatenated system registry information in a function to obtain the registry security value.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as in claim 21, wherein the processor is to concatenate system registry information ~~comprises the processor to concatenate~~by concatenating at least one of system registry files and system registry handle keys.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as in claim 19 wherein the processor is operable to receive instructions which, when executed by the processor, further ~~causes~~ cause the processor to modify the system registry in response to being provided ~~the~~ a new user identity value and ~~the~~ a new registry security value that match the stored values.

Claims 25-28 (Canceled).

29. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture as in claim 10 further comprising instructions for

allowing processing to continue if the new user identity value is equal to the stored user identity value.

Claims 30-31 (Canceled).